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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/556,837

11/15/2005

Dieter Ramsauer

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EXAMINER

DELISLE, ROBERTA S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/04/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/556,837	Applicant(s) RAMSAUER, DIETER	
	Examiner ROBERTA DELISLE	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32 and 34-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/13/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. Claim Status:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. | Claim 32 | Currently Amended |
| b. | Claims 34-62 | Withdrawn-Previously Presented |
| c. | Claims 1-31 and 33 | Cancelled |

3. Prior Art References:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------|
| d. | Smith et al. | US 5,632,061 |
| e. | Bergmann | US 3,669,481 |

Regarding Applicant's Arguments: Examiner respectfully disagrees.

With respect to Applicant's argument pertaining to claim 32 wherein the inclined surfaces of Bergmann are "flush" with the surface of the free end of the latching member, Examiner maintains that the inclined surfaces of the holding elements of Bergmann are inclined with respect to a plane of the thin wall as claimed. (Please refer to illustration 32a and 32b below).

In response to Applicant's piecemeal analysis of the references, it has been held that one cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where, as here, the rejections are based on combinations of references. *In re Keller*, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). In this case, Examiner replaced the fastening device of Smith with

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the fastening device of Bergmann thus acknowledging that Smith did not have holding elements with inclined surfaces.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (US 5,632,061) in view of Bergmann (US 3,669,481).

Regarding Claim 32, Smith discloses:

(Currently Amended): A handle (abstract) comprising:

at least one holding plate (17) which can be mounted in an opening (14, 15) in a thin wall (22) such as a sheet-metal cabinet door;

a head part (12), such as a flange or olive-shaped handle, for overlapping a rim of the opening (14, 15) of the thin wall (22) on its outer side;

[...]

Smith discloses a handle but does not disclose a body part with a holding part and holding elements.

Bergmann teaches:

...a body part (2) which proceeds from the head part and can be pushed through the opening (figure 2) in the thin wall (3); and

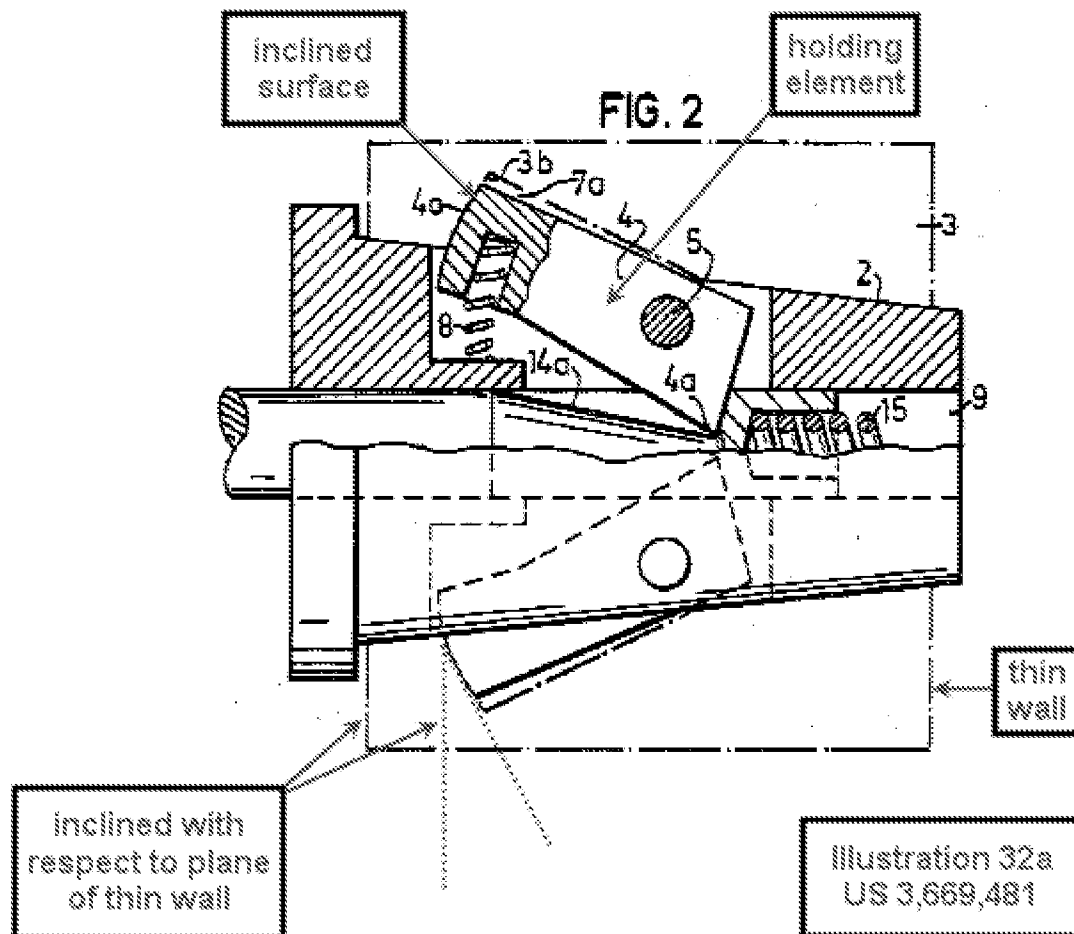
a holding part (4) which is carried by the body part (2), supported on the other side of the thin wall (3), and is separate from the body part (2);

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wherein said holding part (4) is formed by two holding elements (figure 2) which project in a flexible manner from the body part (2) in the direction of its outer surface (figure 2), each of the holding elements (4) having a free end (4c) which has an inclined surface (figure 2) for supporting the body part (2) on the rim or edge of the opening without play (figure 1);

wherein the two holding elements (4) are arranged diametrical to one another (figure 2) and are acted upon by two coil springs (8); and

wherein the inclined surface (4c) of each holding element (4) is inclined (figure 2) with respect to a plane of the thin wall (3). (See illustrations 32a and 32b below)



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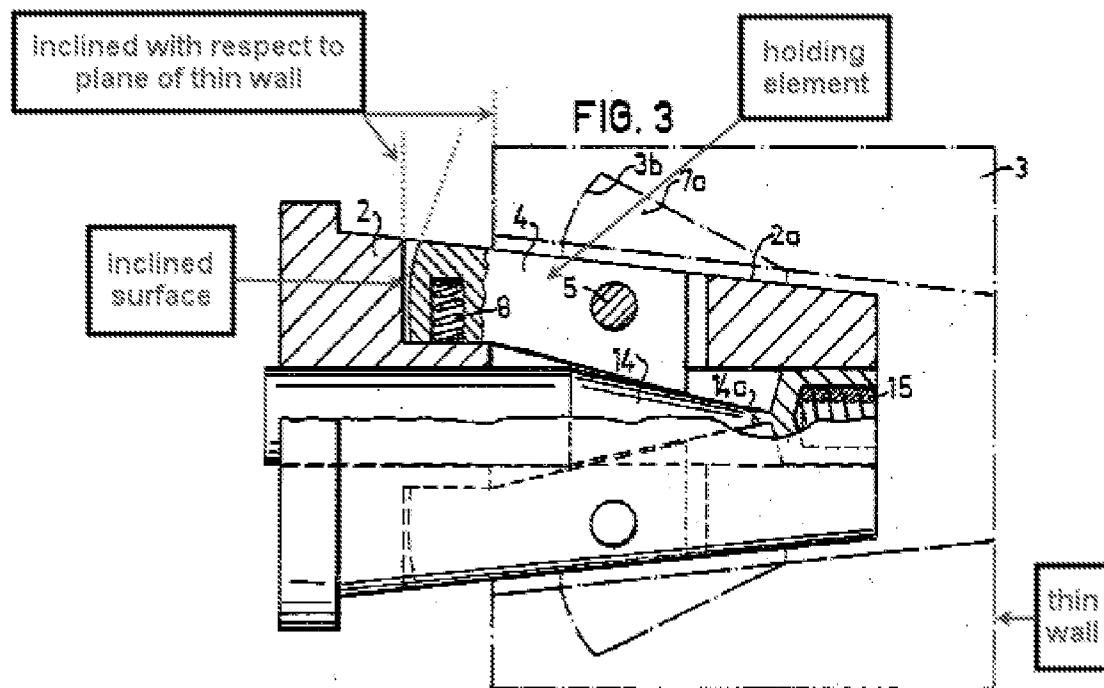


Illustration 32b
US 3,669,481

Examiner notes that Smith discloses the claimed invention except that the locking members are a flexible material instead of a latching mechanism with holding elements that are flexible by the use of two coil springs. Bergmann shows that the latching mechanism is an equivalent structure known in the art. Therefore, because these two fastening elements were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute the latching mechanism of Bergmann for the locking member of Smith.

Examiner further notes for clarification purposes, the locking member of Smith would be replaced with the latching mechanism of Bergmann. The latching mechanism would be placed on the end of the handle of Smith and then placed in the hole. Naturally, one of ordinary skill in the art would make the appropriate modifications to both the handle and the receiving hole of Smith for the proper orientation and hole size in a component (i.e. sheet metal).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERTA DELISLE ("Bobbi") whose telephone number is (571) 270-3746. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor D. Batson can be reached on (571) 272- 6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor Batson/
Victor D. Batson
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

rsd